



Waterpark Industry General & Fun Facts

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GENERAL STATS:

- **Number of waterparks in North America:** More than 1,000*

*These numbers comprise all waterpark facilities, including municipal/city-owned pools with waterpark features, as well as corporately owned waterparks, independently owned waterparks and indoor waterpark resorts/hotels.

- **Estimated attendance at North American waterparks during the Summer 2009 season:** about 80 million (includes United States, Canada and Mexico), with growth average 3-5 percent each year.

- **Estimated attendance at Top 20 worldwide waterparks in 2009:** about 20.7 million, up 2.1 percent from 2008. (These statistics compiled by TEA and AECOM for the 2009 Global Attractions Attendance Report.)

- **Number of waterparks throughout the rest of the world:** about 600

- **Average attendance growth per year (North America over last 5 years):** 3 to 5 percent

FUN FACTS:

(Note: The information that follows has been compiled from facts supplied to the WWA by outside sources. If discrepancies are noted, please contact the WWA).

- **First “official” waterpark created:** Wet ‘N Wild, Orlando, Fla., by **George Millay** (b.1929, d.2006) (creator and founder of Sea World); WWA officially proclaimed Millay as “Father of the Waterpark Industry” in 2004 and awarded him with the Association’s first-and only, to date-“Lifetime Achievement Award.”

- **First U.S. Indoor waterpark:** Polynesian Resort Hotel & Suites, Wisconsin Dells, Wis., 1994

- **First U.S. wave pool:** Point Mallard Park, Decatur, Ala., 1970

- **Longest indoor leisure river in the U.S.:** Zambezi River, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
- **Tallest, fastest single-person, free-fall waterslide in the world:** 120-foot tall “Summit Plummet,” Blizzard Beach, Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- **Tallest raft-ride waterslide:** 11-story-tall “Insane” at Beach Park, Fortaleza, Brazil
- **Largest outdoor wave pool in the U.S.:** Typhoon Lagoon, Orlando, Fla., at 500 feet wide by about 450 feet long, it is the largest in terms of bather capacity, annual visitors and water volume.
- **Largest outdoor wave pool in the world:** Siam Park, Bangkok, Thailand, at 13,600 square meters and 10,000 cubic meters.
- **Largest indoor waterpark in the United States under one roof:** Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio (173,000 square feet)
- **Largest indoor waterpark square footage at one resort in the United States:** Wilderness Hotel, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (seven waterparks at one resort totaling 470,830 square feet).
- **Largest indoor waterpark in North America:** World Waterpark, West Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (5 acres and 2.7 million gallons of water)
- **Largest indoor waterpark in the world:** Tropical Islands, Brand, Germany (710,000 square feet)
- **Largest outdoor waterpark in the United States:** Noah’s Ark Waterpark, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (90 acres)
- **“The Waterpark Capital of the World” (largest concentration of waterparks in one area):** Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (20 waterparks within 19.5 square miles, with more than 200 waterslides and 16 million gallons of water) *Source: Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau*
- **Fastest-growing segments of the waterpark industry in North America:** Indoor waterpark resorts and municipally-owned/city-owned waterparks
- **Fastest-growing regions of the world:** Eastern Europe, Middle East, specifically the United Arab Emirates, and Far East/Pacific Rim

POPULAR TOP-WATERPARK LISTS:

Best waterparks in U.S.

(according to The Travel Channel, 2006)

1. Schlitterbahn Waterpark, New Braunfels, Texas

2. Blizzard Beach at Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
3. Raging Waters, Sam Dimas, Calif.
4. Water Country U.S.A., Williamsburg, VA
5. Splish Splash, River Head, N.Y.
6. Knott's Soak City, Buena Park, Calif.
7. Water World (Hyland Hills), Federal Heights, Colo.
8. Six Flags White Water, Marietta, GA
9. Noah's Ark, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

U.S. waterparks with the highest attendance*

(according to TEA/AECOM Global Attractions Attendance Report 2009)

1. Typhoon Lagoon (2,059,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
2. Blizzard Beach (1,891,000), Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
3. Aquatica (1,600,000), Orlando, Fla.
4. Wet'n Wild (1,235,000), Orlando, Fla.
5. Schlitterbahn (900,000), New Braunfels, Texas
6. Water Country USA (700,000), Williamsburg, Va.
7. Adventure Island (600,000), Tampa, Fla.
8. Schlitterbahn (530,000), Galveston, Texas
9. Hyland Hills Water World (515,000), Denver, Colo.
10. Splish-Splash (495,000), Riverhead, N.Y.
11. Noah's Ark (490,000), Wisconsin Dells, Wis
12. Raging Waters (466,000), San Dimas, Calif.
13. Six Flags-White Water** (450,000), Marietta, Ga.
13. Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** (450,000), Arlington, Texas
15. Dollywood's Splash Country (446,000), Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
16. Wet 'n Wild Emerald Point (390,000), Greensboro, N. C.
17. Soak City Cedar Point (375,000), Sandusky, Ohio
18. Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (360,000), Jackson, N.J.
19. Camelbeach (350,000), Tannersville, Penn.
20. Zoombezi Bay (325,000), Powell, Ohio

*Attendance estimated for calendar year 2009.

**Indicates a tie.

Top waterparks in the World with the highest attendance*

(according to TEA/AECOME Global Attractions Attendance Report 2009)

1. Typhoon Lagoon at Disney World (2,059,000), Orlando, Fla.
2. Blizzard Beach at Disney World (1,891,000), Orlando, Fla.
3. Chimelong Water Park (1,800,000), Guangzhou, China
4. Aquatica (1,600,000), Orlando, Fla.
5. Caribbean Bay at Everland Resort (1,500,000), Gyeonggi-Do, Korea
6. Ocean World (1,310,000), Gangwon-Do, Korea
7. Wet'n Wild (1,235,000), Orlando, Fla.
8. Wet 'n Wild Water World (1,095,000), Gold Coast, Australia
9. Summerland (920,000), Tokyo, Japan
10. Sunway Lagoon (970,000), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11. Schlitterbahn (900,000), New Braunfels, Texas

12. Atlantis Water Adventure (720,000), Jakarta, Indonesia
13. Water Country USA (700,000), Williamsburg, Va.
14. Beach Park (683,000), Fortaleza, Brazil
15. Wild Wadi (677,000), Dubai, U.A.E.
16. Adventure Island (600,000), Tampa, Fla.
17. Deoksan Spa Castle (555,000), Chungcheongnam-Do, Korea
18. Schlitterbahn (530,000), Galveston, Fla.
19. Seorak Waterpia (525,000), Gangwon-Do, Korea
20. Hyland Hills Water World (515,000), Denver, Colo.

*Attendance estimated for calendar year 2009.

This information has been compiled by the World Waterpark Association (WWA) from a variety of sources. Please credit WWA for its use unless otherwise indicated.